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new edition of Governor Winthrop's *History*, an undertaking for which Mr. Ford's labors upon Bradford's *History* have now provided a fitting introduction.

C. H. L.

A Colonial Governor in Maryland: Horatio Sharpe and his Times, 1753-1773. By Lady EDGAR. (London, New York, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1912. Pp. xvi, 311.)

STUDENTS of the colonial period have for some time felt the need of biographical works dealing with men like Governor Sharpe who, as the author frankly states in the preface, was "a character of minor importance" yet whose career was "distinctly interesting" and "illumines a most fascinating period". More especially has it been recognized that sufficient attention has not been directed to the important and difficult part played by the colonial executive. As the main title of this book is *A Colonial Governor*, and as Sharpe's administration covered a period peculiarly adapted to the study of the position, functions, and problems of a colonial governor, it is a little disappointing to find that the author has failed to give a very clear idea of the governor as such—of his relation to assembly, proprietor, and crown. This relation appears incidentally in the material given, but it is left mainly for the reader to do the constructive work if he would understand the office of colonial governor. No doubt the author has such an understanding, as occasional comments on Sharpe's difficult position indicate. For example, "To steer a right course in this sea of difficulties demanded an uncommon share of ability, tact, and firmness. . . . The present lord looked on the province merely as a source of revenue, from which as much as possible was to be drawn. In return, the people were jealous of their rights and privileges as granted by their charter, and not inclined to yield one iota of these privileges in favor of their absent ruler" (pp. 43-44). It is apparent that Sharpe came as near to steering a "right course" as conflicting interests would permit. From the numerous letters quoted the reader may learn something of the obstinacy of the assembly as well as the greed of the proprietor; but no attempt is made by the author to examine adequately controversies on specific questions (such as supply bills, militia bills, income from fines and licenses), to point out their significance in shaping the political doctrines of the colonists, or to present a definite idea of the degree of autonomy demanded by the people. It is well known, of course, that to secure the passage of bills without yielding on questions of prerogative was the most difficult of the governor's duties. To facilitate this was one of the principal reasons for the passage of the Stamp Act.

The subtitle is more appropriate, for the book is a history of the times of Sharpe rather than of himself or of his office. A large part of it is made up of long but pertinent excerpts from Sharpe's Correspondence and the *Maryland Gazette*. This does not make the volume less

interesting, for the excerpts are skillfully woven into a very readable and entertaining narrative. There are few foot-notes, and those given are not citations to authorities. The first fourteen chapters deal with the Seven Years' War and are followed by four chapters on the revenue controversy and the Revolution. No unwarranted attempt is made to make Sharpe the central figure of the period, and in some of the chapters one almost forgets his existence. The chapter headings indicate the comprehensive treatment of the French war: Braddock's Arrival; Braddock's Defeat; Shirley, Commander-in-Chief; Acadia and Maryland; Shirley's Recall; Loudoun's Arrival; Loudoun's Recall; the Cherokees; Ticonderoga-Louisbourg, etc. One feels at times that the account is altogether too comprehensive as it occasionally digresses to describe such irrelevant events as the execution of Admiral Byng for being unsuccessful in his Minorca expedition (p. 115); and again, when the record of Braddock's arrival and war preparations is interrupted by the conjecture that, "If the general feasted, no doubt the staff flirted, much to the satisfaction of the fair damsels of Annapolis, who were, perhaps, a little inclined to scorn the provincials" (p. 39). The material used by the author is entirely too limited for adequate treatment of the topics indicated by the chapter headings, nevertheless the general account of the war period is satisfactory and the conclusions sound. Early disasters of the English were "partly owing to the lukewarmness of the different colonies, and their want of cohesion. Each assembly had its own ideas and plans for raising troops, for transportation, for supplies. Each was jealous of the other. As to the French, they were united under one head, possessed a trained army, were not dependent for supplies or money on local governments, and had the advantage, although fewer in numbers, of being well organized" (p. 101).

Chapters xv. to xviii. are devoted to the Stamp Act and the Revolution. In the interesting chapter on the repeal of the Stamp Act the reader may regret that five pages are devoted to the profligate clergyman, Bennett Allen, and think it foreign to the subject, but in other respects he will find little to criticize. The viewpoints of both ministry and colonies are well presented. The story of colonial resistance to imperial restrictions, especially in Maryland, is briefly but impartially told. The people of Maryland did their part in resisting British taxation, but were reluctant to sever connections with the mother-country. "Maryland's position during the Revolution was unique, and so was the position of the British Loyalists there. The respect, confidence, and protection of both parties were accorded to them if they remained, and leave to go abroad was given if they so preferred" (p. 267). Political differences, we are told, did not lead to persecution or prevent social intercourse. One of the most interesting features of the book is the glimpse which it affords of social life in the eighteenth century. Some well-selected illustrations of colonial homes help to make this more vivid. The volume is concluded by a biographical sketch of the proprietors and a history of the province compressed into less than fourteen pages.

E. I. MCCORMAC.